National Council
for
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

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Progress

Noah Webster's successors characteristically offer a number of definitions of the word "progress." The one that fits the occasion as we reach the end of another year is "Advance to an objective; a going or getting ahead."

Appended to this Quarterly Report is President Grant's report to the annual meeting held in Philadelphia at the end of October. Better than any other material recently offered it testifies to the fact that the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings and its companion organization, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are "getting ahead." No one truly interested in the cause of preservation in this country should overlook the Presidential report this year, for it states succinctly and well how much progress has been made in less than five years time.

Five years ago this month the idea - the mere idea of a national preservation organization - was first seriously discussed by a small group sitting around a table in New York City. A few months later, in April 1947, the first formal meeting to discuss the possibility was held. Two months later the National Council had a charter and was in fact an organization. The first annual meeting was held that autumn and ten months later, in August 1948, a permanent office was set up.

Today the National Council is legion, with representation in 37 states. As General Grant's report points out, it has passed the planning stage and it is doing. What it does in the cause of preservation and how it does it is conditioned only by financial limitations. Through experiment it has learned what the problems are and in many instances how they can be solved. When the financial means are provided, the advance to the final objective will be speeded up.

The final objective? An alert, dynamic organization dealing intelligently and immediately with all phases of preservation; an organization capable of assisting all those individuals or groups of individuals who believe that significant portions of the physical heritage of Americans are worth preserving for this and future generations.

Both the National Council and the National Trust will succeed. They have, with the help of hundreds of members and friends, come far. The degree of their ultimate success will depend, as it always has, on the help that is given them in getting ahead.

It is enfirely appropriate, in a year when the National Trust took over the administration of its first historic property, to put an annual greeting in the words of one of the owners of Woodlawn Plantation, Nelly Custis: "As the New Year is allmost here, I will conclude with wishing you and yours, many very happy New Years each succeeding one, happier than the last."

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

More than 160 members and delegates met in Philadelphia on October 29 and 30, for one of the most successful meetings of the National Council. A local arrangements committee under the chairmanship of Judge Edwin O. Lewis had planned a full schedule of tours, luncheons and other social occasions. Following registration at the American Philosophical Society there was a brief business meeting at which President U. S. Grant, 3rd reported the work accomplished by the Council in the past year, a copy of which accompanies this Report. The meeting adjourned to Independence Hall, where a bronze facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, the gift of Charter Associate Michael Francis Doyle, was presented to Independence Hall by General Grant on behalf of the Council; and received by the Honorable Dale E. Doty, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

The members were then conducted on a bus tour through the Fairmount Park houses en route to Woodcrest, Radnor, where the group was the Guest of Mrs. John T. Dorrence at luncheon. The return through Germantown was again a well-conducted tour of the old area of the city, including brief stops at the Morris House, Wyck and Stenton.

A reception at the headquarters hotel, The Warwick, was followed by the annual dinner, at which General Grant presided as toastmaster. R. Sturgis Ingersoll, President of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, spoke of the value of preservation of historic sites and monuments in providing the wellsprings of inspiration. Robert C. Smith, Professor of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania, gave an illustrated lecture on the History of Architecture in Philadelphia from 1700 to 1900.

The morning session of October 30 in Old Congress Hall was devoted to a Preservation Forum. John C. L. Andreassen, Director of Administration of the Library of Congress, Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Director of Interpretation of Colonial Williamsburg, and Mrs. Frank W. Mish, Jr., of the Washington County Historical Society (Maryland), spoke on various phases of the problems of preservation. Dr. Alexander's talk, "Reconstruction at Green Valley," is appended to this report. Various members and delegates participated in the discussion following these talks, in which the role of the National Council as a service organization was stressed.

Lunch at the Atwater Kent Museum as the guests of Mrs. Lucas Kent and Mr. and Mrs. A. Atwater Kent, Jr., was followed by a series of walking tours of Central Philadelphia under the leadership of Dr. Edward M. Riley, Historian of the Independence National Historical Park Project.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The members and delegates at the annual meeting unanimously approved the slate of officers chosen by the Nominating Committee. It is part of the rare good fortune of this organization that many of the officers and members of the Executive Board were willing to serve again, notably Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman of the Executive Board, General U. S. Grant, 3rd., President, Mr. Ronald F.

Lee, Secretary, Mr. Keith Merrill, Treasurer, and as members of the Board Messrs. Guy Stanton Ford and James Edmonds. Elevated to a Vice Presidency from the Board was Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield and elected with her as Vice President was Dr. Turpin Banister, Dean of the School of Architecture of the University of Illinois. Mrs. Henry P. Russell, of California, and Messrs. Christopher Crittenden, of North Carolina, Arthur Houghton, of Maryland and New York, and Albert Kornfeld, of New York City, became the New Board members.

To Mr. George McAneny, Mr. Kenneth Chorley, and Mrs. Dwight F. Davis, who are retiring from their official duties, The National Council owes a great debt. They helped to found the National Council, gave it time and energy and helped to assure its success.

IN AND OUT OF HEADQUARTERS

General U. S. Grant, 3rd., President of the National Council, was awarded the George McAneny Medal of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society for outstanding achievement in the field. At the same ceremony, the Cornelius Amory Pugsly Gold Medal was presented to Charter Associate Arthur E. Demaray, in recognition of his more than a third of a century with the National Park Service. General Grant was also named as "Unofficial Ambassador of 1951" at a ceremony at the United Nations Club. On November 3, the President addressed the Washington Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities at their annual meeting at Mount Vernon, and on November 7, the Louisiana Landmarks Association, on the role of the National Council and Trust in historic preservation.

Mr. Hardinge Scholle, for twenty-five years Director of the Museum of the City of New York, has joined the staff of the National Council as Consultant.

On November 10, Miss Betty Walsh, who has been the Assistant to the Director since the activation of the National Council in 1948, became the bride of Robert L. Morris of Nelsonville, Ohio, in the First Presbyterian Church of Cynthiana, Kentucky. Mr. Morris, who is in the Navy, is stationed at the Naval Photographic Center in Washington and Mrs. Morris will continue her valued work with the Council.

Before 1951 ends, the National Council hopes to enroll its one hundredth member organization. This should not be too difficult, since the total has now reached 98 with the following organizations enrolled since the last Report:

THE SAVE WOODLEY COMMITTEE (Washington, D. C.)
GENERAL JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM HOUSE AND MUSEUM (Rhode Island)
PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM (Salem, Massachusetts)

TAX RULING

There is at least one item of good cheer in the rugged Revenue Act of 1951 - under section 402 of the Act, the federal admission tax need not be collected on sites and buildings, "maintained and operated by a society or organization devoted to the preservation and maintenance of such historic sites, buildings, shrines." For rulings on particular organizations, if there is a question, address Deputy Commissioner Valaer, Excise Tax Division, Admission Tax Section, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington 25, D. C.

Under the joint auspices of the National Park Service and the National Council, Colonial Williamsburg presented a Washington premier on November 7 of its latest film, "Williamsburg Restored." A documentary on the history and restoration of Virginia's Colonial capital, this color sound-film, which runs for 44 minutes, is but one of the sets of films and slides available for purchase or rental by Colonial Williamsburg, Film Distribution Section, Box 516, Williamsburg, Virginia. It is a fine film, but illustrates the complexity of the restoration process.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Long Island, New York. Walt Whitman's birthplace in West Hills, South Huntington, Long Island, has been saved by the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association. They will restore the 1810 house, improve the grounds and create an exhibit of items associated with the "Good Gray Poet." It will open next spring.

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chippewa County Historical Society plans to rebuild the Henry Schoolcraft Home on Portage Avenue as an historic museum. The reconstruction will be under the direction of Dr. Emil Lorch, professor emeritus of architecture of the University of Michigan.

Colonial Beach, Virginia, The Monroe Birthplace Monument Association, which owns the 69-acre tract surrounding the birthplace of the fifth President, met recently to formulate plans for a memorial.

Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Conversion of the old Greene Academy (forerunner of Waynesburg College) to an historical monument as a project of the Junior History Club has been proposed.

Wenham, Massachusetts. After thirty years of working toward the goal, Wenham Historical Association is starting work on a fireproof museum for dolls and figurines. Almost 2500 small figurines dating from 1200 B. C. tomb-dwelling dolls from Egypt to baby-sized Dydee dolls will be displayed.

Dalton, Georgia. Plans for the preservation of the house of Chief Joseph Vann, Cherokee leader, are to be developed under the leadership of the Georgia State Historical Commission. The Association will be supported by civic and historical groups throughout the state.

Georgetown, Kentucky. The Highbaugh family of Louisville is making possible the restoration of Georgetown College's oldest building, the Old Academy or Physics Building, in time for the 125th anniversary of the founding of the College.

Plymouth, Vermont. Restoration of the Wilder House, where Vice President Calvin Coolidge took the oath of office by lamplight a few hours after the death of President Harding, is being directed by the Vermont Historic Sites Commission.

> More than 36,000,000 persons went "site-seeing" in 1951 in the national parks, monuments and other areas administered by the National Park Service.

THE HENRY FRANCIS DU PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM

October 30 marked the long-awaited opening of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum at Winterthur, Delaware, described as "the richest assembly of American decorative arts, especially furniture, ever brought together." David E. Finley, Chairman of the Executive Board of the National Council, was the principal speaker on the occasion for Mr. du Pont, who is a charter associate of the National Council The official record of the Museum and its opening is presented in the November issue of the magazine ANTIQUES, with numerous illustrations of the 100 period rooms, which cover the American scene from 1640 to 1840 and display American architecture, furniture, ceramics, metalwork, textiles, paintings and prints.

PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

Mount Vernon, Virginia. The National Trust's project, Woodlawn Plantation began to take shape during the fall under the aegis of Henry H. Surface, as Administrator, and Worth Bailey, as Curator. The north and south wings, not a part of the present restoration program, were renovated for use as offices and residence for the curator. Plans for restoration of the central section, for general development, including parking facilities, for furnishing and for continued display and interpretation have keynoted the fall program.

New York, New York. Historic Hanover Square in New York City is emerging after 73 years of semi-darkness under a spur of the "El" which has been removed. Property owners have refurbished their old buildings, the city has rededicated a small triangle of part which has been public land since it was a

Dutch commons of New Amsterdam in the early 17th century. One of the outstanding restorations in the area was of India House (1836) under the direction of John E. Nicholson, a National Council member.

Chicago, Illinois. Widow Clarke House, the oldest building surviving the Chicago fire, is being restored under the auspices of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ. The Church ultimately plans to deed it to the city as an historical museum.

Wisconsin Historical Society has just received the McCormick collection of manuscripts, one of the most complete assemblies of material on American agriculture and business. It shows the development of the agricultural implement business through the records of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, and segments of records of other firms which merged in 1902 into the present International Harvester Company.

HAWAII

During the recent constitutional convention for the proposed state of Hawaii, the following paragraph was adopted and incorporated under Health and Public Welfare: "Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph 118. The State shall have power to conserve and develop its natural beauty, objects and places of historic or cultural interest, sightliness and physical good order, and for that purpose private property shall be subject to reasonable regulation."

On December 18, Dr. Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress, was met at Honolulu airport by an official representative of President Gregg M. Sinclair of the University of Hawaii. Dr. Evans presented four large portfolios of mounted photographs of historic sites and buildings in Hawaii. The photographs were taken under the direction of Professor Frederick Nichols of the McIntire School of Fine Arts of the University of Virginia when he was connected with the University of Hawaii. Dr. Nichols, a Council member, presented the negatives to the newly established Council Archive at the Library of Congress, and the Library made a complete set for the Hawaiian institution.

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Lancaster, Ohio. After 18 months of restoration, by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, the birthplace of General William Tecumseh Sherman was opened to the public this year as a state memorial and museum.

Columbia State Park, California. Although plans for full restoration of this historic ghost town have been drastically curtailed because of reduced state appropriations, some immediate preservation work is under way. All state-owned buildings will undergo brick masonry repairs, window and sash replacement, and a general clean-up.

Washington, D. C. Portraits and possessions of President James Monroe were on display in The George Washington University Library during the month of November. Lent by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, a National Council member organization, for the occasion were such items as a wine cabinet with original bottles, china, miniatures, shoe buckles, books, manuscripts, and silver medals.

Weiser, North Dakota. The State Historical Society of North Dakota held a ceremony on the occasion of the dedication of four acres of the battle site of the scene of the second battle between the United States and Sioux Indians. The land was given to the Society by John DeKrey, Jr., and contains the grave of Dr. Joseph Weiser, cavalry surgeon killed in the battle of Big Mound on July 24, 1863.

Kellogg, Idaho. Old Cataldo Mission has recently been re-roofed and extensive repairs have been made to the road and bridge leading to it.

Delaware. Historic Delaware, Inc. has just published the results of a survey made by Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, architects, and is undertaking a detailed study of the Old Court House in New Castle, preparatory of its restoration. H. Rodney Sharp is continuing with a series of restorations in Odessa. The state has provided $5,000 for a caretaker and is cleaning up the site of Fort Delaware; it has also provided for the purchase of Brandywine Springs, a famous old watering place. It will be partially restored and developed as a recreational area. The state of Delaware has passed an act similar to the act establishing the National Trust for Historic Preservation to set up funds for state preservation projects. One of the outstanding private restorations was of "Aspendale," near Kenton, by Donald Downs.

> In the Guide to the United States Naval Academy recently received. we noted a phrase which might well inspire other early American cities to emulate Annapolis in their preservation efforts, "The many fine examples of Georgian architecture, the quaint, narrow streets and cobblestone walks have been safeguarded by the citizens of Maryland's capital against the disenchantment of modernization."

VISSCHERDAAL

Despite the efforts of leading state preservationists and the intervention of the National Council, "Visscherdaal," a 1760 restored house in Clifton Park New York, will be inundated to create a reservoir for the town of Colonie. An area of 7,167 acres, including important indian sites, burying grounds and trails, will also be destroyed. The New York State Historical Association enlisted the aid of the National Council in fighting to save Visscherdaal, and Director Louis C. Jones of the Association gave a graphic account of the cooperative effort at the annual meeting. A lesson learned over and over again during the last several years was repeated: It is never too early to begin

fighting for a property worth preserving. It is possible that this preservation movement would have been successful had all of the forces - societies and individuals - been rallied early rather than late, and then only after a political decision has been made.

The fifth annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians will be held in New York January 25-27. One session under the chairmanship of Charles E. Peterson will be devoted to "Preservation and Restoration in New York Area." As a general introduction to the subject Frederick L. Rath, Jr., the Director, will present a report on the work of the National Council.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE SUCCEEDS

Word got around last winter that three fine early Federal period houses on "M" Street in Georgetown, D. C., were to be sold and demolished. Some public spirited citizens, determined that historic Georgetown should not further be destroyed got together and obtained assurance of funds enough to initiate purchase of the property. Since then they have incorporated, the contributions made to pay off the mortgage and to pay the cost of restoration will be covered by stock certificates.

The restoration is being planned by an architect well versed in the style of the period in which these houses were built. When restored they will be rentable and should bring in a fair return on the investment. Should it prove impracticable to raise the funds needed to carry out the project to a successful conclusion, the saleable value of the property will be sufficient to protect the investment made.

This undertaking is mentioned as an example of how a local group of enthusiastic citizens can finance and organize a project to save and appropriately utilize a historic property for the benefit of their community and the protection of their neighborhood.

IN DANGER

New York. Since 1823, Catskill Mountain House has dominated a ridge 1400 feet above the scenic Hudson Valley. This classic Greek Revival resort, well-known to Washington Irving, Theodore Dwight and other writers, was also identified with Thomas Cole and other artists of the romantic Hudson River School. Today unoccupied, its fine Greek Revival pediment now rests on 5 of its 13 Corinthian columns and a few emergency props. This may be its last winter unless means for its preservation can be found.

Camp Lazear, Cuba. Dr. Philip S. Hench of the Mayo Clinic is leading a movement to save the little Building No. 1 in Cuba where Dr. Walter Reed and his associates conducted the experiments in 1900, which led to the conquest of yellow fever. Dr. Hench in 1940 rediscovered and established the identity of

this shack, and since that date has tried to interest the Cuban government and individuals in its preservation. As he states, "In these days with the world so lately red with blood, when man's inhumanity to man is still so pathetically apparent, it is well for us to note the example of these men who banded together for high adventure, not to kill or even to die for one country, but to die, if need be, for their fellow men of all countries. It is such as they who reassure us of the inherent decency and dignity of man."

Ambler, Pennsylvania. A swinging foot bridge over the Perkiomen River in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, built many years ago as a sentimental gesture to show present and future generations the type of bridge traditionally used in their community is in danger of being destroyed by a proposed dam of the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company.

Staten Island, New York. Civic leaders are protesting the movement to raze the 51-year-old Randall Island Memorial Church. They want to preserve it as a memorial to Captain Robert Randall, founder of Sailor's Snug Harbor. The church overlooking waters of the Kill Van Kull was designed after St. Paul's Cathedral in London at a cost of $250,000.

PASSING PARADE

St. Louis, Missouri
OLD DEGENHART MANSION RAZED FOR NEW HIGHWAY

Meadville, Pennsylvania
TOWN FOUNDER'S HOME TO BECOME APARTMENT HOUSE

Amsterdam, New York
GUY PARK MANOR LOSES STATE FUNDS. TO BE AUCTIONED

Baltimore, Maryland
ALEXANDER BROWN'S 120-YEAR-OLD HOUSE DEMOLISHED

Wheeling, West Virginia
STEEPLEJACKS BEGIN WRECKING OLD METHODIST CHURCH

Mena, Arkansas
"THE OAKS" DESTROYED BY FIRE STARTED BY LIGHTNING

Pennyon, New York
HISTORIC LAFAYETTE ELM DYING SAYS TREE EXPERT

Colorado Springs, Colorado
PIONEER MUSEUM TO PRESERVE RELICS OF HOWBERT HOUSE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

Ceremonies were held last month to mark the completion of a museum at Ocmulgee National Monument on the eastern edge of Georgia. The exhibits deal with the six successive Indian cultures occupying Ocmulgee, the first scientifically excavated large Indian site in the South.

In Belding, Michigan, members of the Belding Historical Society conducted excavations of Indian burial grounds, arrow factories and other old Indian areas to gather material to use in connection with their proposed History of Belding.

From Lancaster Pollard, Superintendent of the Oregan Historical Association, comes a cheering report on the state of preservation in the Beaver State through its local historical societies. In Astoria the historic Flavel house has been saved and will be used for community and museum purposes; Newport has prevented the destruction of one of the oldest coastal lighthouses and hopes to restore it; Jacksonville has converted the old courthouse into a fine historic museum. Only from Salem, the capital of the state, is there bad news: the magnificent old county courthouse is scheduled for destruction despite every effort of preservation groups to save it.

FOREIGN PRESERVATION

A three weeks summer school will be held from July 10, 1952, at Attingham Park, Shropshire, for the study of English Arthictecture, Art and Social History. This course is sponsored jointly by the National Trust and the Education Committee of the Shropshire County Council. The aim of the course is to introduce American students and teachers working in the Fine Arts to a closer knowledge of the great houses of England from the Middle Ages to the 19th century and give them an opportunity to visit Chatsworth, Hardwick, Kedleston and Haddon in the Derbyshire area, Blenheim Palace, Oxford and the neighborhood of stratford-on-Avon and Bath. The last week will include a visit to some 15 London houses. Dr. G. M. Trevelyan will supervise tutorial work, a library will be available and there will be a number of resident tutors. American Universities co-operating may grant credits, and, if desired, a written examination can be set. Sponsors of the course include Mr. Harold Nicholson; Professor Anthony Blunt, Keeper of the King's Pictures and Director of the Courtauld Institute; Professor Pevsner (Cambridge University); Professors Wittkower (of London University) and Geoffrey Webb, Secretary to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Full costs for keep and tuition will be $150. This sum should cover all expenditures, but if costs continue to rise, a small extra fee may be added. A membership fee of $2 for the National Trust will be required. Only 60 students can be accepted and applications, with a $30 deposit, may be sent to Mr. George Trevelyan, Attingham Park, Salop, by 15 February, 1952.

Pal Kelemen, in Baroque and Rococo in Latin America, mourns that many of the 70,000 churches which flourished in the Americas in the 17th Century are in a crumbling state; volcanoes, floods, earthquakes and civil strife have taken a tragic toll. Worst of all, civil authorities are letting local masterpieces deteriorate through neglect or to make way for modern improvements.

IN PRINT

The Independence Hall Association has issued a handsome illustrated pamphlet, The Independence National Historical Park and Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia. It has a foreword by the Honorable Judge Edwin O. Lewis, and an article by William E. Lingelbach, "Historic Philadelphia Redevelopment and Conservation," and "The Independence National Historical Park Project," by Charles E. Peterson.

Old Monterey-Doorway to History is an outstanding illustrated brochure setting forth the preservation program of the Monterey Foundation.

The Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, in Collaboration with the National Park Service, has recently published a 16-page illustrated history of "Hampton" in Towson, Maryland.

The Southwestern Monuments Association has announced publication of Tumacacori's Yesterdays by Earl Jackson. It is the story of 18th and early 19th century Indian and Spanish life as reflected in the history of the mission of San Jose de Tumacacori (now a National Monument).

General U. S. Grant, 3rd., is the author of an illustrated article entitled "Preserving our Historic Sites," which appeared in the Chicago Schools Journal for September-October. A limited number of reprints are available.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A moving picture company out in the Grand Teton country is experiencing some difficulty in filming a new historical novel. Seems it's in technicolor and the Indians don't look like Indians. Problem has been solved by spraying them each morning to make them several shades darker.

The Jackson County, Michigan, Board of Supervisors, is offering to sell one of the city's old landmarks:

> For Sale: One Jail. Complete with cockroaches, sagging stairways, corroded plumbing, sunken ceiling and crumbling walls. A real antique. Fine location with practically no view. Purchase price includes one light bulb per cell block, baling wire for cell doors and genuine firetrap furnace arrangement. Act quickly. This won't last long. It can't.

CHAOS (the Cannon Hunters Association of Seattle), a group including historians, archaeologist, engineers, geologists and electronics experts, is exploring the land in the state of Washington which will be inundated when the McNary Dam is completed.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, Missouri, launched its historic site marking project by dedicating a marker at the grave of Lord Highland and Forest King, two great sire saddle horses.